

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/712,098

Examiner

Abbas I. Abdulsalam

Applicant(s)

FURUKAWA, HITOSHI

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/23/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 05/21/02
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Takeda et al. (USPN 6002351) teach a joystick (10) including a joystick unit (12) (Fig. 1) with bearings 30a and 30b or (32a and 32b) that are disposed on a same axial line so that the bearings 30a and 30b, and 32a and 32b have their respective axes that intersect perpendicular to each other at a same height level, and with an inner case 22 that has blades or disks 34 and 36 rotatably supported on respective side surfaces in a manner such that their rotational axes are perpendicular to each other (Fig. 2) wherein the joystick unit (12) is characterized in that one rocking member 40 is formed by an arcuate member having an elongate hole 44 formed in a lengthwise direction to have support shafts 46a and 46b at respective ends (col. 4, lines 23-60 and Figs (1-3).

Nakamura (USPN 6670945) teaches a multi-directional input apparatus including a rod-like operating member 30 inclingly operated in arbitrary circumferential direction around its lower portion, a set of upper and lower turning members 40A and 40B, a hoisting and lowering slider 50 and a spring 60 for resiliently holding the operating member 30 at its neutral position, and a hoisting and lowering member 70 which is operated up and down by the operating member 30 (col. 4, lines 50-60 and Figs. 2-3).

The prior art does not teach a joystick, including an operating member, which has shaft portions respectively protruded from both side faces thereof; an upper rotary member, which supports the operating member so as to be pivotable in a first direction; a lower rotary member, which supports the operating member so as to be pivotable in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction; and an urging member, which urges the lower rotary member and the upper rotary member so that the operating member is situated at a neutral position thereof, wherein the lower rotary member has an elongated hole through which the operating member is passed, and the elongated hole extended in the first direction; wherein the shaft portions are rotatably engaged in shaft holes which are formed in side walls of the elongated hole; wherein expansion parts are formed on the operating member so as to expand within the elongated hole in the first direction; and wherein the operating member rotates through the shaft portions so that both side faces of each expansion part slide along both inner wall faces of the elongated hole.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abbas I. Abdulsalam whose telephone number is 571-272-7685. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abbas Abdulsalam

Examiner

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May 4, 2006


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